

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PCH-06 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06
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R 180147Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY MBABANE BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY MASERU BY POUCH

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF, US

SUBJECT: KELLOGG SA LABOR TROUBLES
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REFERENCE: JOHANNESBURG 1091

SUMMARY: KELLOGG US INCREASINGLY SENSITIVE TO CHARGES OF
VICTIMIZATION OF BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS BY KELLOGG SA.
MAINTAIN ALL REPORTED DISCHARGES FOR CAUSE ACCORDING TO
DETAILED REPORT FROM DES WOODS, KELLOGG SA. KELLOGG US HAS
REQUESTED WOOD TO FORWARD DETAILS OF SA LABOR LAW AND
PRACTICE. KELLOGG US ALSO REQUESTED DATA FROM THE DEPART-

MENT AS TO THE ROLE AND PLACE OF BLACK UNIONS. END OF SUMMARY.

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH AF LABOR ADVISOR, HARRY BOESCH, KELLOGG US PUBLIC RELATIONS, ADMITTED KELLOGG CONCERN OVER ADVERSE PUBLICITY RESULTING FROM KELLOGG SA LABOR PROBLEM. MAINTAINED THAT DES WOODS, KELLOGG SA, HAD PROVIDED DETAILS OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO CONTESTED DISCHARGES. PERSONNEL RECORDS SHOW ALL WERE FOR SPECIFIC CAUSES RELATED TO MISCONDUCT AT WORKPLACE OR REFUSAL TO FOLLOW COMPANY RULES OR REASONABLE ORDERS. TWO CASES, MASHAPA AND SKHUSANA, COULD BE DESCRIBED AS QUILTS WITH INDIVIDUALS WALKING OFF THE JOB AND RETURNING SEVERAL DAYS LATER ONLY

TO PICK UP WAGES. BOESCH ALSO ALLEGED THAT WOODS AND SKAKES SIKHAKHANE HAVE MET ON FAIRLY REGULAR BASIS. BOESCH IMPLIED INCIDENTS BEING BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION TO PROVIDE AMMUNITION FOR PERSONS IN US AND SA WHO OPPOSE US INVESTMENT IN SA.

2. BOESCH LABELED KELLOGG VP HARRISON'S STATEMENT CITED REFTEL AS "MISPOKEN." WOODS CRITICIZED HARRISON FOR ADMITTEDLY INACCURATE STATEMENT AND WOODS HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY KELLOGG US TO PREPARE SUMMARY ON SA LABOR LAW, PRACTICES AND POSSIBILITIES. THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A SEPARATE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE PLACE AND ROLE OF BLACK UNIONS FROM KELLOGG HEADQUARTERS. 1973 AND 1974 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEPT. PAPERS ON EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF US FIRMS IN SA WERE PROVIDED KELLOGG AS WELL AS MAIN POINTS OF CURRENT SITUATION. KELLOGG HAS NO PLANS AT PRESENT FOR SENDING US OFFICIAL TO SA, RELYING FOR TIME BEING ON WOODS' REPORTS.

3. KELLOGG US PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY WITH REPORT CIRCULATED IN US BY AFRICA NEWS SERVICE (ANS). ANS REPORT SIMILAR TO FINANCIAL MAIL ARTICLES, INCLUDING THE HARRISON QUOTE. ANS REPORT LINKS HECKETT AND KELLOGG CASES AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF GROWING WORKER MILITANCY. THUS FAR, REPORT HAS NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED WIDE PLAYBACK. COPY BEING POUCHED TO GOLINO, JOHANNESBURG.

4. COMMENT: KELLOGG ADMITS IT HAD NOT RPT NOT PAID MUCH PRIOR ATTENTION TO INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS OF ITS SA SUBSIDIARY. FURTHER, IT CONCEDES BEING INADEQUATELY INFORMED AS TO SA LAW AND PRACTICE. WHILE CONVINCED REPORTED DISMISSALS WERE LEGITIMATE, KELLOGG US APPARENTLY LOOKING AT POSSIBILITY THAT CHANGES MAY HAVE TO BE MADE IN KELLOGG SA LABOR RELATIONS. BOESCH HAS

GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT KELLOGG US DOES NOT WANT TO
GET OUT IN FRONT BUT THAT IT REMAINS FLEXIBLE AS TO THE
FORM AND STRUCTURE SUCH CHANGES MAY TAKE. CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED MBABANE, MAPUTO, MASERU.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 77 JOHANNESBURG 1091
Retention: 0
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: ELAB, SF, US, KELLOGG
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Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/46c2e390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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